Committee for monitoring implementation of programme for the Minorities

3504 SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any committee in his Ministry for monitoring implementation of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the Minorities ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of persons who have been provided with employment during the last three years under the programme.

THE MINISTER OF STATE)N THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA MENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Monitoring of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities in the Ministry is being done on regular basis. However no committee has been appointed for this purpose. A nodal officer of the level of Joint Secretary has been entrusted with this work. A quarterly review of employment of candidates belonging to minority communities in the recruitment made to various posts in the Ministry as well as representation of a member of minority community on Selection Committees Board is conducted and a quarterly return is also furnished to the nodal Ministry namely Ministry of Welfare.

Information regarcing persons belonging to minority communities oro-vided employment in the Secretariat of the Ministry for the last three years is given below :—

	1989	1990	1991
Group A	2	2	—
Group B	1	—	—
Group C	—	1	1
Group D	—	—	—

Herbal and Aromatic Plants

3505. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any law under which the forest produce like herbal and aromatic plants are protected, if so, what are the details thereof ;

(b) whether Government are aware that herbal and aromatic plants worth hundreds of crores of rupees are either being exported or smuggled out of the country from the Himalayan ranges every year ;

(c) whether these herbs and aromatic plants are also consumed by the drug and perfumery industry in the country ;

(d) if so, whether these plants are exported/used by indigenous industry under proper licences ; and

(e) if answer is in negative what measures are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIA MENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) to (e) Aromatic

and herbal plants are used both for nteraal consumption as well as export. The export of these plants are regulated according to the provisons of the export policy of India and the provisions of the 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna' of which India is a member. Certain plants which are endangered are banned for export. The export of other species is allowed subject to restrictions provided in the policy and the convention.

At present there are no specific legal provisions to restrict or regulate collection of aromatic and herbal plants for internal consumption. However, it is envisaged to provide protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, to the plants specified in Schedule VI of the Act. At present only 6 species namely Beddomes cycad, Blue vanda, Kuth Ladies slipper orchid, Pitcher plant and Red vanda are included in the schedule.

Taxes and levies on industrial units to flght pollution in the country

3506. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.N.D.P. has recommended to Member nations to impose fresh taxes and levies on industrial units to fight pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any action in this regard has since been taken ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Government is not aware of any U.N.D.P. recommendation to member nations for imposing taxes and levies for pollution control in industries.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

3507. *[Transferred to 30th March,* 1992]

भारतीय वन सेवा के अधिकारी

3508. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय वन सेवा के 1987 बैच के 18 अधिकारी ऐसे हैं जो महाराष्ट्र में अनावश्यक पदों पर काम कर रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या वरिष्ठ वेतनमान में 15 पदों के खाली पड़े होने के बावजूद उन्हें पदोन्नति नहीं दी जा रही है यद्यपि वे एक वर्ष पहले ही इसके पात्र हो गए थे; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन अनावश्यक पदों को फरवरी, 1992 तक विद्यमान रहना था और इन 18 अधिकारियों की अब तक कहीं भी तैनाती नहीं की गई है, यदि हां, तो इस मामले में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और विधि, न्याय तथा कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रंगराजन कुमारमंगलम) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) इस मामले में महाराष्ट्र सरकार के साथ पत्र व्यवहार किया जा रहा है। राज्य सरकार ने कहा है कि अनावश्यक पदों को 31 अगस्त, 1992 तक बढ़ाया गया है।